# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

## THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

for the Year 1900.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my report for the year 1900, it being the last of the decennial period defined by the last Census, it will be observed that the Local Government Board have adopted a somewhat different series of Tables from those which have been existing since the year 1880. Instead of two, there are now four, which deal in an admirable and simple way with the statistical requirements of a Rural Sanitary District, as regards the ratio of Births, Deaths, and notifiable diseases.

They note not only the present condition of the District under review, but carry that review back to the last Census period. This being the last year of that period, it may be permissible to remark, that in the year 1890, in attempting to follow out the requirements of the Central Authority, to have the increase of population estimated from year to year, on the basis of the difference between the Birth rate and the Death rate, the theoretical population of the District was found to be equal to 14,174. There were many indications to show that this figure must be incorrect, but the guess was made that the actual increase might be up to about 13,600.

The inaccuracy of even this guarded estimate was almost ludicrous, for not only had the estimated increase of population, represented by the difference between the Birth and Death rates, amounting to 3,110 in the ten years, disappeared, but 652 of the population existing in 1881 as well; making an actual loss of population during the ten years of 3,762. With such a proved state of things existing, it was considered ridiculous to attempt a calculation for increase, and therefore that column in Table I of the Local Government Board forms was consistently left untouched throughout the whole decade.

At the end of 1900, the estimated increase of population during the ten years ought to amount to 1,189, raising the population again to 14,205, but there is little evidence in the general condition of the District to afford a well founded hope that such a figure is correct, even with the enlargement of the District, which was effected in 1895. It is safest therefore to leave any local increase to be determined by the proximate Census. The alteration of figures in 1898 in Table 2, refers to the rearrangement of localities in that year, when the Pickhill sub-district was distributed under Thirsk, Topcliffe and Knayton, and so disappeared.

It is perhaps worthy of remark how closely the death rate of 1900 (15.67) tallies with the average rate (15.68) for the preceeding ten years.

Concerning the causes likely to affect the health of the population during the year 1900, it may be stated, as was done in the previous year, that these were not endemic, but generally introduced, and it cannot with truth be said, that any single death in any part of the District during the year, was the result of any specially insanitary condition or unhealthy surroundings, or induced by any offensive processes of trade.

Table III. shows that there was only one case of Enteric Fever notified during the year, and that, I think, was of a doubtful character. The case was reported at Kepwick, a high and very healthy locality. The premises on which it occurred were clean and well-kept. Opportunity was taken to examine the well on the premises, and the Kepwick and Cowesby water supplies, all of which might be pronounced among the best in the district.

The severe and inclement weather in the beginning of the year, had the effect of raising the death rate highly during the first quarter; Bronchitis and Influenza heading the list of deaths, persons of advanced age, however, being the chief sufferers.

In consequence of the prevalence of Whooping Cough in different parts of the District, it was found necessary to have schools closed in Sutton, Felixkirk, and Boltby, for periods of two or three weeks. As these schools are in villages lying on the spurs of the Hambleton Hills, the severely inclement state of the weather was almost a sufficient reason in itself for the closure.

The schools in Kirby Wiske had to be closed during the second quarter, and in Kirby Hill in the fourth quarter of the year. In each case, a closure for three or four weeks was sufficient to check the progress of the Zymotic.

The cases of Scarlatina notified at one or two points of the District, were distinctly traceable to imported infection, and in no case did the disease tend to spread. Isolation of the cases was obtained where practicable, and disinfection of the affected premises carried out by the Sanitary Inspector with success.

One case only of Diphtheria was reported during the year, in the village of Otterington, arising from no apparent local cause, and of no severity.

As this disease is certainly an outcome of local insanitary conditions, it is very satisfactory to find that the mortality from it is less than half in the decade just ended, than what was shown in the preceding one. And this is believed to be the result of the endeavour to obtain remedy in every case, where obvious or probable causes existed. Immediate good results following the improvements effected in every case.

Concerning the ordinary sanitary work of the District during the year, an improvement has been made in Thirsk, by the re-laying of the drains in Stammergate and Long Street. While the improvement in flushing the drains is bearing good results.

A house to house inspection was made in Thirsk and Sowerby, with the object of ascertaining the number of drains from sinkstones, which had not yet been made to discharge into the open air on trapped grates, and to secure that the requisite alterations should be effected.

One butcher was summoned and fined for slaughtering in unlicensed premises, but all the licensed slaughter-houses are reported to be in good order.

Since the scavenging of Thirsk and Sowerby has been undertaken by the District Authority some difficulty has been experienced in getting the work efficiently carried out, but that difficulty seems now to be overcome by systematic supervision, and conduct of the work.

54 inspections of various parts of the District have been made during the year.

Signed,

#### JOHN H. BUCHANAN, M.D.

Thirsk, 18th February, 1901.

Medical Officer of Health

TABLE I.

THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT. For whole District.

	ion d to each		Births.		s under 1 of age.	Dea at all	ths ages.	Deaths	Deaths of non-	s ss re- syond rict.	Deaths at all ages, nett	
Year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	No.	*Rate.	No.	Rate per 1000 births.	No,	*Rate.	in Public Institu- tions.	residents registered in District.	Deaths of residents registered beyond the District.	No.	*Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	II	12	13_
1890	12188	298	23.20	33	110.73	174	14.27	• •		• •		••
1891	12188	311	25.5	31	99.67	238	19.52	• •				
1892	12188	283	23.21	42	148.40	201	16.49		9	•	192	15.75
1893	12188	323	26.50	40	123.83	221	18.13	• •	• •			• •
1894	12188	314	25.76	33	105.09	186	15.26			• •		• •
1895	13016	352	27.04	42	119.31	190	14.59			• •		• •
1896	13016	317	24.35	28	88.32	167	12.83	• •	• •		••	• •
1897	13016	321	24.66	29	90.34	185	14.21		• •	• •	• •	• •
1898	13016	309	23.74	44	142.39	204	15.67		• •		••	
1899	13016	327	25.12	36	110.09	207	15.90	• •	• •	••	••	• • •
Averages for years 1890 to	12602	315.5	24.83	35.8	113.81	197.3	15.68					
1900	13016	335	25.73	38	113.43	204	15.67	• •	••			••

\*Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres—64,024.

Total population at all ages . . . . 12,188 Number of inhabited houses . . 2,799 Average number of persons per house 4.35 of 1891.

TABLE II.
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

7 2 1. THIRSK. 2. TOPCLIFFE. 3. SUTTON. 4. KNAYTON. 5. PICKHILL																				
ss of ties	_ ľ.	TH	IRS	K		OPC	LIF	E.	3.	SU	TTO	N		KNA	YT(	$\frac{\mathrm{ON.}}{\mathrm{I}}$	5. PICKHILL.			
Names of localities.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under I year.
	a	Ь	С	d	a	Ь	С	d	a	Ь	C	d	a	Ь	С	d	a	<i>b</i>	C	d
1890	6584	174	105	21	1590	28	14	4	1156	20	10	I	1622	40	22	4	1236	36	23	3
1891		168	136	19		41	27	3		29	27	I		38	23	4		35	25	4
1892	••	154	123	28		37	29	4		20	16	4		25	II	2	••	37	22	4
1893		165	145	24		41	21	5		24	16	2		52	17	3		41	22	6
1894	• •	161	109	17		53	23	6		28	17	3		39	26	5		33	II	2
1895		180	113	29		70	20	5		19	18	I		50	21	4		33	18	3
1896	• •	157	104	18		69	22	3		28	16	3		33	17	4	• •	30	8	••
1897		192	104	19		56	26	2		19	13	I		32	15	2		22	27	5
1898	6935	170	121	29	2140	82	43	12		16	16	I	1957	41	24	2				
1899		185	133	25		75	43	7	)	31	10	I		36	21	3				
Averages of Years 1890-1899		171.6	119.3	22.9		55.2	26.8	5.1		23.4	15.9	1.8		38.6	19.7	3.3		33.37	19.5	3.37
1900	6935	199	100	21	2140	76	49	8	1156	18	30	3	1957	42	24	6				

TABLE III.

### THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1900.

					_		_										
				Cases notified in whole District.								case in ea lity.		No. of cases removed to hospi- tal from each			
Notifiable	Disease.	At all ages.	under 1	to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to	65 and upwards.	I	2	3	4	I		lity.	4	
Diphtheria			I			I							I				
Erysipelas			10		0			4	6	9	I						
Scarlet Fever	• •		10	,	I	6	I	2		4		3	3	<b>\</b>			
Enteric Fever			I			I							I				
Whooping Cou	glı	••)	145	16	55	69	3	2		73	27	30	15				
Measles		• •	15	I	2	10	I	I	••		7	••	I		• •		
	Totals	s	182	17	58	87	5	9	6	93	35	33	21			• •	

TABLE IV.

THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at Death. during Year 1900.

		hs in w	hole I	District		oined A		Dea	Deaths in Localities (at all ages)					
Causes of Death	All ages	Under 1	r and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	I	2	3	4	Deaths in Public Institutions		
Scarlet Fever	I	••	• •			I	••	I	••	••	••			
WhoopingCough	6	3	3		• •		••	3	I	I	1			
Epidemic Influenza	II					I	10	I	6	3	I			
Diarrhœa	4	I I		ı	ı		1	4						
T\	2		••				2	1 T	ı	• •	••			
		••	• •		7	10		10			2			
	17	· • 	• •	••	7	10	• •		4	I	2			
Other Tuber- cular diseases	3		• •	• •	2	I	• •	. I		I	I			
Cancer, malig- nant disease	9	• •				3	6	2	3	I	3			
Bronchitis	30	12	4	• •	• •	3	11	14	7	5	4			
Pneumonia	3	• •		• •		r	2	2	I	• •				
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver	1				• •	I		I			• •			
Premature Births	7	7			V			3	3	I				
Diseases and accidents of Parturition	2		••	••		2	••	••	2	• •	•••			
Heart Diseases	24			I		7	16	14	2	4	4			
Accidents	7		3		I	ı	2	4	3	}				
Suicides	I						I	• •	I					
All other causes	76	16	2		3	20	53	39	16	13	8			
All causes	204	39	12	2	14	51	86	100	50	30	24			